

Announcement of an effort to restore water quality in Mattox Creek in King George and Westmoreland Counties, Virginia

PUBLIC MEETING: Abraham and William Cooper Memorial Branch Library, 20 Washington Avenue, Colonial Beach, Virginia, on April 11, 2006 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. In case of inclement weather, check the DEQ website for a rescheduled date. A Technical Advisory Meeting will be held on March 14, 2006 at the Abraham and William Cooper Memorial Branch Library from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Health, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation are announcing the conclusion of a study to restore water quality, a public comment opportunity, and public meeting.

MEETING DESCRIPTION: Final public meeting on a study to restore water quality

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Virginia agencies are working to identify sources of the bacterial contamination in the waters of Mattox Creek. This stream flows through King George and Westmoreland Counties, near Colonial Beach, Virginia.

The Mattox Creek "impaired" stream segment includes the entire stream length from it's headwaters in King George County to it's confluence with the Potomac River. The lower portion is impaired for the *Shellfish Consumption* designated use. This segment covers 0.4 square miles. The remaining portion of Mattox Creek is impaired for failure to meet the *Primary Contact (Recreational)* designated use because of bacterial standard violations. This segment is approximately 34.03 miles long.

The study reports the sources of bacterial contamination and recommends total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, bacterial levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: The development of a TMDL includes a public comment period, including public meetings. After public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by

DEQ during the comment period, March 22, 2006 to April 21, 2006. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

TO REVIEW DRAFT TMDL REPORT: The draft TMDL report on Mattox Creek will be available on March 22, 2006 from the contact below or on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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